



MPO Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

6th Floor Training Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, North Carolina

Members Present in Person

Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Mike Allen, Town of Belville
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Neil Anderson, City of Wilmington
Jonathan Barfield, New Hanover County
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Mike Forte, Brunswick County
Dane Scalise, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Luke Waddell, City of Wilmington

Others Present Remotely

Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Amy Passaretti, Port City Daily
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT
Jamar Johnson, WMPO
Veronica Carter, Town of Leland
Adrienne Harrington

Members Absent

Wendy Hardee-Fletcher
Landon Zimmer

Others Present in Person

Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Tera Cline, WMPO
Mark Hairr, WAVE Transit Authority
Michelle Howes, NCDOT
Chad Kimes, NCDOT
Vanessa Lacer, WMPO
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Scott James, WMPO
Rebecca Roth, New Hanover County
Caitlin Melvin, NCDOT

1) Call to Order

Chairman Hank Miller called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. MPO Executive Director Mike Kozlosky called the roll, and a quorum was present as follows:

Present: Chairman Hank Miller, Mike Allen, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, Jonathan Barfield, Jr., Dane Scalise, Luke Waddell, Frank Williams, Eulis Willis, Neil Anderson, John Ellen, **Absent:** Wendy Fletcher-Hardee and Landon Zimmer

2) Conflict of Interest statement and recusals

Chairman Miller read the conflict-of-interest statement for the board. No one had a conflict.

3) Approval of Board Member Excused Absences

Mr. Kozlosky requested a motion to excuse Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee and Landon Zimmer.

Mr. Waddell made a motion to excuse Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee and Landon Zimmer from the meeting and Mr. Ellen seconded.

Motion passes unanimously.

4) Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Ellen seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

5) Public Comment Period

No public sign ups.

6) Presentations

WAVE Ridership Update

Jon Dodson with the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority gave a brief presentation regarding Cape Fear Public Transportation Authorities service improvements analyses. He gave an update to some changes consisting of several routes increasing service from hourly to every thirty minutes. Route 107 stabilized its schedule to hourly service with the discontinuation of Route 301. A few routes have transitioned to RideMICRO as well as weekend hours being redistributed to offer more service on Saturdays. Mr. Dodson updated the board on ridership route changes and highlights. He stated looking at weekend information they added an extra hour on Saturdays which increased ridership percentage by around 12%. He shared the numbers for improved routes. Mr. Dodson shared a comparison regarding FY22 and FY23 to include routes with increased frequency and saw an increase in ridership of around 24%. He stated that apples-to-apples route comparisons is a 6.7% increase for routes that existed in 2022 and 2023. He concluded by stating that overall ridership, including all routes, RideMICRO and UNCW increased 3.2% from 2022 to 2023.

7) Consent Agenda

- a) **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes- September 27, 2023**
- b) **Resolution approving donations for prizes for the 2023 Get There Greener Challenge**
- c) **Resolution approving 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Administrative Modifications #23-1**
- d) **Resolution approving Amendment #1 to the FY 24 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Barfield made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Barbee, and the motion carried unanimously.

8) Regular Agenda

a) Resolution approving the amended list of Aviation Project Submittals for Prioritization 7.0

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO, presented the resolution for approval. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) released a schedule outlining the Prioritization 7.0 (P7.0) process. The P7.0 process includes a submittal window of July 2023 through October 2023 to allow MPOs, RPOs, and Division Engineers to submit projects for evaluation. The WMPO Board may submit up to 20 projects for each mode of transportation. She stated since the Board's adoption of the P7.0 aviation project submittals on August 30, 2023, ILM staff has requested the removal of some projects to better align with the outer years of the Authority's Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Lorenzo stated the amended recommendations for submittal to NCDOT for P7.0 aviation projects were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve, and Mr. Ellen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Resolution approving the award of the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's FY 24 Direct Attributable funds

Scott James, WMPO, stated that of the six (6) applications received three (3) have been chosen and approved for funding. He explained that the projects are listed in the packet and were ranked according to the established revised application guidelines. Mr. James stated that this was the highest scoring group of applications based on the guidelines. He also explained there would be training for project managers involved with these projects on November 16, 2023.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve, and Mr. Barbee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Smoothed Urbanized Area Boundary

Greer Shivers, WMPO, stated with the release of the decennial census every 10 years, there are also Census Urban Areas released and with that comes the requirement of MPOs to look at these urban areas and create a smoothed, or adjusted, urban area. And really what this is, is a chance to provide a more contiguous to work with. As you can see from the black outlines of this map, there's like a gap between the Wilmington and Leland area but, they are the same Urban Area. This gives us a chance to address any irregularities in the Census Urban Area boundary and to help us maintain our facilities. So, the big thing about the smoothed area boundaries is that it dictates what is considered Urban or Rural which then affects federal aid eligibility.

Mr. Waddell requested clarification on the blue area on the map, Greer Shivers explained that area is the smoothed urban area. She stated that the Census Urban Areas are the black outlines and then our recommended smoothed are the blue and you are allowed to take in more area to just have a more holistic approach to consider any ports, any facilities like interstate interchanges, airports, seaports, or anything else with big significance. Greer Shivers explained to the board that there are (2) two separate urban areas. The large one is Wilmington and the smaller one is the Hampstead Urban area. She stated that the gap difference between the two was because Surf City and Topsail requested to stay within the Rural Planning Organization mapping. She concluded that the red lines and blue lines are drawn the way they are because some areas fall into other municipalities.

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Waddell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9) Discussion

a. 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #23-2

Mike Kozlosky said that this item is for information purposes only and will be brought back for consideration at the Board's next meeting.

10) Updates

a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO

Mr. Kozlosky stated the update was included in the packet. He also recognized Abby for her nomination to Wilmington Biz Top 100. Mr. Ellen asked Mr. Kozlosky which side of the Hooker Road the multi-use path was going on. It was explained that it will be on the east side (water side).

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Mark Hairr, Cape Fear Wave Transit, stated updates were including in the packet.

c. NCDOT Division

Chad Kimes, NCDOT stated that they are planning to have a ribbon cutting in a few weeks for the Smith Creek Bridge. He gave a brief update on Military Cutoff Extension stating the closed ramp is now open to help the flow of traffic. Mr. Kimes told the Board that they are applying for a Bridge Investment Grant for the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. He requested letters of support for the grant. There was then discussion on exactly what the letters needed to include and that the letters needed to get to NCDOT by November 20, 2023. Caitlin Martin, NCDOT, volunteered to send the Board a draft of what is needed. Mr. Kimes confirmed that the match funds will come from state funding. Mr. Barfield thanked Mr. Kimes for his hard work on the Military Cutoff Extension project.

d. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Nadia Sader, NCDOT, stated the Pender County Comprehensive Transportation plan start of study letters have gone out otherwise the Wilmington Travel demand model and the Brunswick County CIP are ongoing and on track.

7) Announcements

a. WMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan Technical Steering Committee

Mr. Kozlosky announced that committee will be meeting on October 26, 2023

b. 2050 MTP Outreach

Vanessa Lacer, WMPO reminded the Board that public outreach is still ongoing through November 30, 2023.

Next meeting – November 29, 2023

There being no further business, Mr. Barfield made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Waddell, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky

Executive Director

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS.
THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED DIGITALLY AS PART OF THIS RECORD.